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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/705,188

11/10/2003

Yining Deng

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7590

06/02/2008

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

AN, SHAWN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2621

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/02/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JERRY.SHORMA@HP.COM
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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/705,188	Applicant(s) DENG ET AL.	
	Examiner SHAWN AN	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12 and 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7, 11, 12 and 14-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. As per Applicant's instructions as filed on 3/04/08, claim 2-3, 5-12, 14-16, 18 have been amended, and claims 1 and 13 have been canceled.

Response to Remarks

2. As per Applicant's remarks with respect to amended claims 8-10 as filed on 3/04/08 have been carefully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover et al (2003/0128891 A1).

Regarding claim 8, Hoover et al discloses a method for generating a panoramic image, comprising:

capturing (by a camera) a series of image strips (Fig. 3, 34, 36) each encompassing a subarea of an image sensor used to sample the panoramic image, and combining the image strips into the panoramic image (46), and the series of image frames is being obtained ([0040-0041] and [0042], see an image consolidation means ...,).

Therefore, it would have been considered obvious to combine the image strips into the panoramic image (46) while the series of image frames is being obtained, since

it would be very logical and efficient steps to follow in obtaining/generating a panoramic image.

5. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover et al as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Colavin et al (7,064,783 B2).

Regarding claim 9, Hoover et al does not particularly disclose the image strips having a set of dimensions that are selected to maintain an overlap in the image strips.

However, Colavin et al teaches forming a panoramic image comprising strips having a set of dimensions that are selected to maintain an overlap in the strips for producing a better panoramic image (Figs. 3, 6, and 9).

Therefore, it would have been considered obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art employing a panoramic camera as taught by Hoover et al to incorporate Colavin et al's teachings as above so that strips have a set of dimensions that are selected to maintain an overlap in the strips for producing a better panoramic image.

Regarding claim 10, Colavin et al teaches adjusting/correcting the dimensions to maintain the overlap (Fig. 7; col. 7, lines 50-67; col. 8, lines 1-10).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 2-7, 11-12, and 14-24 are allowed.

7. Independent claims 2, 11, 16 and dependent claims 3-7, 12, 14-15, 17-24 (by virtue of dependency) are allowed as having incorporated novel features as previously discussed in the last Office action as filed on 11/29/07.

The prior art of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the novel features as specified in claim 14.

Accordingly, if the amendment can be made to cancel rejected claims, the application would be placed in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Shawn An* whose telephone number is 571-272-7324.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2621

11. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/SHAWN AN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621

5/25/08

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